

MINUTES
DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD
DISTRICT IV

May 3, 2000

Stanley/Aley Community School Center, 1749 South Martinson

Members Present

Council Member Gale
June Bailey
Mindy Johnson
Bonnie Johnson-Patrick
Edwin Koon
Jerry McGinty
Bea Vickers
Paul Ward

Members Absent

Chris Carraher

Guests

Sara Gilbert
Linda Knupp
Ron Harris
Bobbie Wiles
Paul Gunzelman
Richard Mellard
Dwight Diehl
Wayne Wells
Elizabeth Root
Jim Coe
Jim Stolz

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7:00 p.m., **Council Member Bill Gale** called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

Jerry McGinty (Ward) moved that the minutes be approved as corrected to include: 1) The addition of Dorman Blake to be included with members present; and 2) The Traffic Agenda Item, Paragraph Two, line five, should read "December 31, 1999," not December 31, 2000. The motion passed (8-0).

McGinty (Johnson) moved the agenda be approved with the additions of a Public Agenda and a Neighborhood Agenda. The motion passed (8-0).

PUBLIC AGENDA

Council Member Bill Gale asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Board. There was no one in the audience requesting to speak on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

--OFF-AGENDA

Pat Burnett, City Clerk, asked **Council Member Gale** if he would allow her to swear in the District Advisory Board Members, who had not taken the oath of office, since Board Members were starting to vote on items. **Council Member Gale** agreed that the

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Members should be sworn in before any further action. Board Members **Bonny Johnson-Patrick, Tom Kessler and Paul Ward** were sworn in.

1. Kansas Gas Service (KGS) Update on Seneca Project

Jim Stolz, KGS Representative, introduced **Jim Coe, Project Designer**, and gave a brief update on the gas main replacement along Seneca Street. Mr. Stolz reported that since he had last met with the Citizen Participation Organization, that work on the project had started. GDC (Gas District Contractor) was the company selected for the work on the project.

GDC has started at 29th Street going north to avoid conflict with the City of Wichita's Department of Public Works' construction scheduled. Before GDC starts in an area, door tags and the project schedule are left on homeowner's doors. The contractor is completing clean-up work at the time of replacement. The project is to be completed by August 13, 2000.

Paul Ward inquired when the gas line at Barber and Walnut would be replaced with the paving project at Barber and Walnut.

Stolz responded that the line would need to be replaced since the street was being lowered to include curb and guttering, but that was a smaller project, not directly related to the Seneca project.

Ward asked whether the line to the house would include a new meter. **Stolz** commented the lines are marked for excavation purposes, and steel lines are often replaced with plastic line. If the meter was being moved from the street to house, then it would be replaced.

Bonny Johnson-Patrick asked when the work from 29th Street South would be initiated. Stolz estimated it would be late Summer. Stolz also said the work under I-235 would start on June 1st.

(**Dorman Blake** arrived.) ---BRIAN, I DIDN'T RECORD THE TIME...CAN YOU CHECK WITH DORMAN TO SEE IF HE KNOWS AND INCLUDE THE TIME HERE. THANKS!)

Stolz complimented the City's Public Works and Park Departments for the cooperation on this project.

Gale asked if there were any other questions.

Ward asked when the work on Walnut would be completed. **Stolz** responded that he was not sure, but asked Mr. Ward to contact him about the project.

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Stolz thanked the DAB members for their cooperation and on-going involvement.

Council Member Gale requested that Item 3 be taken out of order, since Item 2 would involve lengthy discussion.

3. Community Services Block Grant Oversight Committee

Sarah Gilbert, Career Development, presented information concerning needed appointments to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Committee. The Oversight Committee is responsible for helping with the annual application for CSBG funds.

These are federal funds, used to improve conditions for area low-income residents. A variety of projects are funded with CSBG funds, such as neighborhood clean-ups, four Wichita neighborhood centers, as well as Project Access which provides prescription drugs at a reduced rate. The Oversight Committee will also meet to review activity reports. The Oversight Committee will meet quarterly starting in June.

Johnson-Patrick inquired what other programs are funded from CSBG. Gilbert gave other examples, such as: community gardening; neighborhood planning; and some homeless activities.

Dorman Blake requested a copy of the report detailing the use of funds.

Ed Koon and **Dorman Blake** volunteered to serve on the Oversight Committee.

1. Potential South Branch Library Location

Linda Knupp, Library Branch Manager, presented information on the site selection process for the new South Branch Library. **Knupp** reported that last August, the City Council allocated \$3.6 million for replacing the Seneca Branch Library with a regional library in the south area of town. The library will house a large collection, extended hours and more services.

John Philbrick, Property Management, had initially identified 11 potential sites for the library. Simultaneously, the Fire Department was undergoing a fire station relocation study. **City Manager Chris Cherches** suggested that departments should work together in identifying a site that might serve various needs. An internal committee with representatives from Library, Park, Fire, Finance and the City Manager's Office worked together to identify a potential multi-purpose site.

After extensive search, the land area at I-235 and Meridian in front of the YMCA has been identified as the first choice for the site. The proposed site would be large enough to accommodate both the library and fire station, with additional space available.

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Gale inquired if that entire area was for sell. **Knupp** responded that she believed the Wendy's Franchise had purchased a small section of at the corner, but the original site included 50 acres.

Knupp stated that being co-located with the Fire Station provided the additional benefit of security, since fire stations are staffed "24-7" and that there had been incidents of vandalism in the past at other branches.

June Bailey inquired on the use of the additional land, since park land is especially need in that area. **Knupp** responded that she assumed that is why **Doug Kupper, Park Department Director**, had been a part of the selection committee.

Knupp reported that the Library Board would be making its recommendation at the May 16th meeting and she was optimistic to see construction this year.

Tom Kessler asked if this site is not approved is there another site. **Knupp** responded that this was the only acceptable joint facility site and was their first choice regardless.

Blake inquired about other possible locations and **Knupp** shared the map identifying the 11 potential sites. She stated that the site at 31st and Seneca was the second choice.

McGinty inquired about relationship to the bus route. **Knupp** responded that the site was on the route and that was part of the consideration.

Patrick-Johnson inquired about the abandoned site. **Knupp** responded that it would revert back to the Dillons store.

Bailey (McGinty) moved the District Advisory Boards endorsement of the Meridian and I-235 site. The motion passed unanimously.

TRAFFIC AGENDA

5. Central and Anna Traffic Concern

(**Council Member Gale** requested that Item 5 be taken out of order, since the item involved City Staff making a presentation, and Item 4 was for Council discussion only.)

Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineer in Public Works, presented comparative information of a traffic study completed at Central and Anna in 1996 and recent study. **Gunzelman** explained that these types of studies are completed once a request for traffic signalization or signage is completed. He also explained that the study uses federal standards, adopted by the City Council, which provide eleven warrants, or issues, evaluated to determine the need for signage or signalization.

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Bailey questioned the difference in the number of accidents recorded by the Police Department and the number of accident sited as a part of the traffic study. **Gunzelman** explained that only accidents of more than \$500 are considered in the traffic study.

Bailey stated that her discussion with many officers reveals that is a flaw in the system, because officers are not trained to estimate the cost of damages to a vehicle. **Bailey** stated most accidents, with any damage, would result in more than \$500.

Lt. Ron Harris, Wichita Police Department, agreed with **Bailey**, but stated that the officers are following the Kansas State Law, which require any accident of over \$500 must be reported to the State. **Lt. Harris** explained that in the past the City had unsuccessfully attempted to have the law change, like other states. **Lt. Harris** stated that the reporting process to Topeka is extremely time consuming and needs to be addressed.

Bailey stated that she is not blaming the officers or Public Works, but the system use for evaluation seems to have significant problems that need to be examined. She suggested maybe a cross-district DAB team be established to discuss the issue.

Bailey inquired on the current status of the project. **Gunzelman** explained that currently all of the underground conduits for the electricity, cabling and other items for the traffic signals were being installed with the construction project. If a traffic signal is warranted in the future, only the external hardware would need be installed, which would greatly simplify the project.

Gale asked if there was anyone interested in pursuing a taskforce to examine the process for traffic signals.

Koon suggested that maybe the issues of how the warrants are interpreted should be examined, instead of depending on the State to make changes. He stated he believed that the issue could be controlled locally.

Johnson-Patrick and **Bailey** volunteered to speak at other DABs about interest on working a task force to discuss the criteria for new traffic signals and signage. **Bailey (Johnson)** moved that the representatives for District IV DAB be approved to meet with the other DABs to discuss the creation of the ad hoc Task Force on Traffic Studies. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS, cont.

4. District Advisory Board Alternate Members

Mindy Johnson made the request for alternate members be appointed to serve as “back-up,” voting members in case of absence of the regular members. **Johnson** stated she believed this was how other DABs were addressing the issue.

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Misty Bruckner, Assistant to the City Manager, explained that other DABs did have alternate members, but the alternates were not voting and the alternates did have a direct relationship with a Board Member. In other word, there was not a direct one-to-one ratio for people to serve as alternates. **Bruckner** continued by stating the alternates were selected by the DABs to be informed back-ups in case there was a change in membership. In that situation, an alternate could easily step in to fill the role. **Bruckner** also stated that not all DABs had alternates.

McGinty suggested that part of this was a process of everyone feeling comfortable that everyone's interest were being represented. He stated that it was not necessary for there to be a representative serving from a neighborhood to ensure that neighborhood would still be supported by the DAB.

Bailey and Ward suggested that it would be good to have a few alternates on the "waiting list" in case of membership change, but that decision should be left to Council Member Gale.

Johnson expressed concern of how members in the audience could participate in discussion, if not sitting with the DAB. **Gale** stated he would be more inclusive with that process. **Johnson** also requested that Mr. Wayne Wells, from Delano, receive an agenda in the future.

Johnson-Patrick (Bailey) moved that the alternate process be established for the purpose of replacing board vacancies at the discretion of the City Council Member.

NEIGHBORHOOD AGENDA

Blake reported problems with debris that had been reported to the City.

Delano --At the May 16 meeting, the fire relocation study, neighborhood planning and the West Douglas street scaping will be discussed.

Southwest Village – A neighborhood clean up is planned.

Orchard Breeze – Party in the Park will be on June 17th. Bailey also reported the success of the Neighborhood University.

Southwest – The recent April 8 parade involved over 600 people with 200 entries. (NICE JOB!)

Stanley-Aley -- Plane are underway to revive the neighborhood association.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

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Misty R. Bruckner

Assistant to the City Manager